

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 3, lines 11-18 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Previously it has been shown that it is possible to repair longitudinal meniscal lesions utilizing porous polymer scaffolds. The meniscus has also already been completely replaced. Lesions in the avascular part (the central two-thirds of the meniscal body) of the meniscus do not heal spontaneously. In order to engineer new meniscal tissue into the lesion, a connection between the lesion and the vascular periphery has been made. The principle of the technique that has been developed for that purpose is shown in [figure 1a-c] Figures 1a, 1b and 1c.

Please replace paragraph 2, lines 5-7 on page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

As a comparison also the same system was prepared, using water as a chain extender, resulting in a polyurethane urea. The polyurethane amides and polyurethane urea are formed according to [scheme 1] Figure 7, as attached.

Please replace lines 24-29 on page 13 and lines 1-4 on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Results

As can be seen from figures [x and y] 3, 4 and 5, foams with a rather regular pore structure have been obtained. Nearly all pores range in size from 100-380 μm . The distribution in pore-size does not limit the applicability as meniscal reconstruction material. Importantly, the pores are interconnected, as can be seen from the SEM micrograph and the fact that all the salt crystals could be washed out with water. The latter was confirmed by SEM micrographs of various cross-sections. The porosity of the scaffolds lies around 70% which was determined by weight and volume, assuming a polymer density of 1.1 g/ml.

After line 23 on page 14, add the following section, entitled "**Brief Description of the Drawings**":

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figures 1a, 1b and 1c show, in schematic form, the repair of a longitudinal meniscal lesion by means of the formation of a connection between the lesion and the vascular periphery of meniscal tissue.

Figure 2 is a plot showing the formation of fibrocartilage as a function of the compression of the

porous polymer scaffold, with % compression measured on the horizontal axis or "X" axis and stress (kPa) measured on the vertical axis or "Y" axis.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 are photomicrographs of foams, each with a regular pore structure (where nearly all the pores range in size from 100 - 380 μ m) the formation of which is set forth in the "Experimental" section hereof, supra.

Figure 6 is a plot setting forth the compression behavior of (a) a polyurethane urea foam, indicated by reference numeral 12 and (b) a polyurethane amide foam, indicated by reference numeral 11, and obtained by chain extension with, respectively, water and adipic acid, with compression % measured along the horizontal axis ("X" axis) and stress (kPa) measured along the vertical axis ("Y" axis).

Figure 7 is a schematic diagram indicating the formation of a polyurethane amide using a diisocyanate and adipic acid as starting materials and the formation of a polyurethane urea using a diisocyanate and water as starting materials.

Appl. No. 09/824,548
Amendment dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace page 3/3 of the drawings with the attached pages 3/4 and 4/4 of the drawings.

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 6 and to the figure following originally presented Figure 6. The figure following originally-presented Figure 6 was originally not numbered, but is now indicated as "Figure 7". Reference numerals 11 and 12 for two graphs in Figure 6 were previously omitted. The descriptive matter originally set forth following Figure 6 has been deleted thereat and is now set forth in the specification in the newly-presented section: "Brief Description of the Drawings", together with explanation of the meanings of the graphs indicated by reference numerals 11 and 12. The identification of the meaning of the "Y" axis for Figure 6 as originally presented was illegible and has been made legible on the newly-presented Figure 6 submitted herewith as drawing page 3/4.

In order to expedite review of the amendments to the specification and drawings by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, a "marked-up" page of originally presented page 3/3 of the drawings (showing all changes being made) is herewith attached following newly-presented drawing pages 3/3 and 3/4.